



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Volume 3, Number 12

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor


12 May 2003

Week of 12 May 2003

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***To Direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to Convey the Coast Guard Cutter Bramble, Upon Its Scheduled Decommissioning, to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History Located in Port Huron, Michigan, for Use for Education and Historical Display*** (H.R. 517). 


This bill does not increase direct spending (spending not subject to appropriation) or reduce revenue.

2) ***Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the D.C. Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run*** (H.Con.Res. 128). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

3) ***Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act*** (H.R. 281). 

This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

4) ***Honoring the Life and Work of Former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Matthew J. Ryan and Offering the Deepest Condolences of the United States House of Representatives to His Wife and Family on His Death*** (H.Res. 178). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

5) ***Delbert L. Latta Post Office Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 985). 

This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenues.

6) ***Expressing the Sense of Congress that the United Nations Should Remove the Economic Sanctions Against Iraq Completely and Without Condition*** (H.Con.Res. 160). 

This resolution will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

7) ***Commending Those Individuals Who Contributed to the Debris Collection Effort Following the Space Shuttle Columbia Accident*** (H.Res. 222). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

8) ***To Amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to Extend the Availability of Funds to Carry out the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program*** (S. 870). 

This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.


This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

9) ***To Designate the Visitors' Center in Organ Pipe National Monument in Arizona as the "Kris Eggle Memorial Visitors' Center"*** (H.R. 1577). 

This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

10) ***Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1012). 

This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

11) ***To Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to Revise a Repayment Contract With the Tom Green County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, San Angelo Project, Texas*** (H.R. 856). 

This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

12) ***To Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to Grant an Easement to Facilitate Access to the Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska*** (H.R. 255). 

This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

13) ***To Amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Increase Assistance for the Poorest People in Developing Countries Under Microenterprise Assistance Programs Under Those Acts*** (H.R.192). 

This bill amends the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 to require that at least 50 percent of all microenterprise assistance be targeted to the very poor. The bill authorizes the President to provide assistance to increase the availability of financial services to microenterprise households that lack full access to credit. The administrator of the agency responsible for administering the assistance must monitor the poorest, and ensure they receive needed microenterprise credits. The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$175 million in 2003 and \$200 million in 2004, and – if funds are appropriated – will cost \$348 million over the 2003-08 period. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***Pension Security Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1000).


Committee: Education and the Workforce 

Summary: H.R. 1000 makes a variety of revisions to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 [ERISA]. The changes affect the operation of private pension plans, and the premiums employers pay to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. For example, the bill phases in a set of rates – based on characteristics of each company and pension plan – for all new plans that are underfunded. It also would reduce these “variable-rate premiums” paid by all underfunded plans for employers with 25 employees or fewer. The bill allows plans to become more underfunded without subjecting them to tax penalties. This would ultimately encourage employers to increase contributions to the pension plans until funding returns to the appropriate level. H.R. 1000 also sets the interest rate used to determine variable-rate premiums at 115 percent of the 30-year Treasury bond rate through 2003. After that, the interest rate would return to 100 percent.

Cost: H.R. 1000 increases revenue by \$196 million in 2003 and by \$19 million over fiscal years 2003-08. It would decrease direct spending by \$39 million in 2003, and by \$101 million over fiscal years 2003-08.

Budget Act: The bill does not violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

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Bill: *National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2003* (H.R. 1527). 

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Summary: H.R. 1527 reauthorizes the National Transportation Safety Board [NTSB] for fiscal years 2003-06. NTSB's authorization expired on 30 September 2002. The bill transfers NTSB's family assistance responsibilities to the Federal Bureau of Investigation when a crash has been determined to be a criminal act. It requires the preparation of an annual report that lists the regulatory status of all NTSB safety recommendations. The measure also makes various technical changes.

Cost: The bill authorizes discretionary appropriations of \$76.7 million in fiscal 2003, \$83.7 million in fiscal 2004, \$88.0 million in fiscal 2005, and \$92.7 million in fiscal 2006. It does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

Budget Act: The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Prepared by The Committee on the Budget